



China Lake Draft Environmental Impact Statement Fact Sheet

December 2002

On November 22, 2002, the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Military Operational Increases and Implementation of Associated Comprehensive Land Use and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans. This fact sheet is designed to help the public better understand what is being proposed.

China Lake, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, initiated the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement based on two factors:

- Expected changes to the tempo and types of military testing and training needed to support military readiness in response to evolving world events and in support of the warfighter's needs; and
- Passage of new laws affecting land use and natural resources management

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to increase the tempo of range flight operations, airfield flight operations, and the type and tempo of range ground operations. Three alternatives are being considered: two address limited to moderate operational increases over five years, while the other alternative would maintain existing operating conditions.

Under all alternatives, operations will continue to be conducted on existing disturbed land. Of the 1.1 million acres at China Lake, less than five percent of the land has been disturbed by Navy activities. The remainder of the land provides a safety and security buffer for military operations.

Protection of the land, natural resources and cultural resources is integrated in the Station's operational planning. Implementation of the China Lake Comprehensive Land Use Management Plan and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan will formalize this process.

Public input is an important component of the Navy's decision-making process, and public participation is encouraged. Information about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be presented during five public hearings. The hearings will begin with an open house at 6 p.m., followed by the formal presentation at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings have been scheduled for:

- Jan. 21, Kerr McGee Community Center, 100 W. California Ave., Ridgecrest
- Jan. 22, Inyokern Elementary School, 6601 Locust Ave., Inyokern
- Jan. 23, City of Barstow Council Chamber, 220 E. Mountain View St., Suite A, Barstow



- Jan. 28, Owens Valley Unified School District, 202 South Clay St., Independence
- Jan. 29, Trona School, 83600 Trona Road, Trona

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information can be found:

--On the internet, at <http://www.nawcwpns.navy.mil/~clump/clump.html>;

--At the Information Repositories located at

- Public Affairs Office, Room 1015, Building 1, 1 Administration Circle, China Lake
- Kern County Library, Ridgecrest

- Branch, 131 E. Las Flores Avenue, Ridgecrest
- Inyo County Free Library, Independence Branch, 168 N. Edwards, Independence
- San Bernardino County Library, Trona Branch, 82805 Mountain View, Trona;

--And by calling the Information Line at (760) 939-4588 or toll-free (888) 672-3244.

POINT OF CONTACT

To be put on the mailing list or to request a copy of the document, call Peggy Shoaf at (760) 939-1683.

